Completing and presenting a basic research assignment is part of the class.

You have broad discretion in selecting a research topic within current issues in US government and politics (NOT a history paper). You are encouraged to choose/develop one that relates to your interests.

Note that the research paper assignment is 20 % of your grade.

This is not a writing or a speech class but completing a basic research assignment and sharing the information is customary in higher education and part of the class.

Please follow MLA citation rules; you may refer to the library research guide & handouts.

Basic Guidelines/Suggestions/Criterion for papers...

20% - Presentation - Pass or Fail - Share your research and findings with the rest of the class. (No Paper, No Presentation).

20% - Identify/state/describe/introduce a current problem or issue in American Politics or Government. Questions that you may address could include (this is not a complete list, you can have other questions as well): Interested/affected parties, why and how? Environment/setting/structure? Why is a political, legislative, executive and/or judicial remedy needed? What are the pros/cons of some possible solutions?

20% - Sources - Bibliography - Works Cited. At least 5 sources (Primary and Secondary; Published/Reviewed, no Wikipedia, legitimate sources only. Can be online but has to be a legitimate source). MLA format. Be sure to cite your research in the paper, you may use in-text citations or footnotes, no endnotes. Both scholarly and popular sources are acceptable but please have at least 2 scholarly sources.

40% - Your Original Work - Content, Critical Thought/Research - Analyze, Evaluate and Interpret. Develop your concepts from the sources. Do not advocate or promote – analyze. This is a research paper, not a persuasive paper. What does it mean? Can you understand and manage different views and facilitate others' understanding and consideration of a problem?

Length - 8-14 pages, not including works cited. 12 point font. Double spaced. Quotations 1-2 sentences ok.
Remember it’s a research paper not a persuasive paper. You can have a point of view and evidence to support that point of view, but have at least some opposing ideas/viewpoints. However, be sure to ground your paper in sources and evidence.

Research something you are interested in and that you can find a number of good sources.

Tell me the topic in writing before you start – in class or by email. I will not allow 2 exact same topics, so the earlier you let me know, the better! (there can be similar topics, eg different aspects of a topic)

Sample topics - anything politics or government related as a problem. Examples include guncontrol, federalism and funding, etc